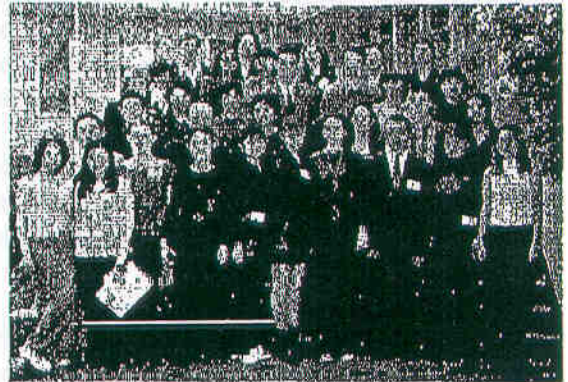


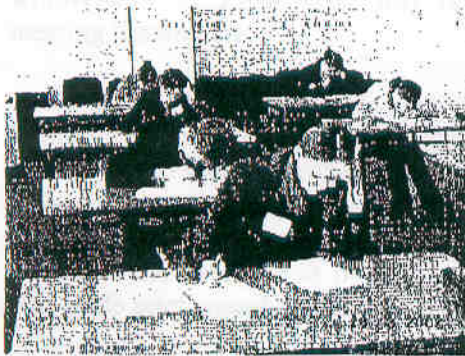
## Report on the Republican Student Tournament and Teachers' Seminar 2002

IFES/Kazakhstan in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan and in partnership with the Information and Research Center for Civic Education held the third Republican Tournament and Teachers' Seminar on Civic Education in Almaty on March 28-29, at the sanatorium "Kargalinsky". The purpose of the event was to evaluate the effectiveness of the civic education course "Introduction to Civic Education", recognize the students' achievements culminating in a civics competition and provide a forum for students and teachers to share their experiences and ideas.

Sixteen students shown here, with their teachers, representing 14 Oblasts and two major cities (Almaty, Astana) in Kazakhstan earned their place at the Republican Tournament by winning the competitions held at the city or oblast levels. Three hundred forty students, one from each participating school, took part at the oblast or city Civic Education tournaments held between February 25th and March 15th, 2002. Only those schools that taught the Civic Education Course were invited to participate in the oblast/city tournaments.



Since the inauguration of these tournaments in 2000, the number of schools has grown from 34 to 115 in 2001 to 340 this year. The total number of students involved to date has reached 692. The tournaments are held in Russian and Kazakh languages.



In the first round of the Republican Tournament 16 students took a test consisting of 45 multiple-choice questions, taken from the Civics course textbook. The 8 students who obtained the highest score were accepted for the second round. The second round consisted of three parts in which students were given written multiple-choice questions that included more than one correct answer, oral questions, and role playing topics for which they had twenty minutes to prepare for their respective roles.

Students were confronted with assignments that included descriptions of situations, problems and references to arguments. Each participant was offered recommendations to complete the assignments. The students were required to point out and discuss the essence of a problem, considering the following aspects: juridical, social, practical and conflict of values. The four judges were guided by the following criteria during their assessments: problematic situations analysis, idea forming, correct conclusions, logic skills, critical thinking, and decision-making.

The questions for the quiz were based upon the "Introduction to Civic Education". Five different questions were orally given to each student to answer in a public session.

In the role-playing segment, students were paired according to the assignments they drew from envelopes. They each had 20 minutes to think about their position and study the



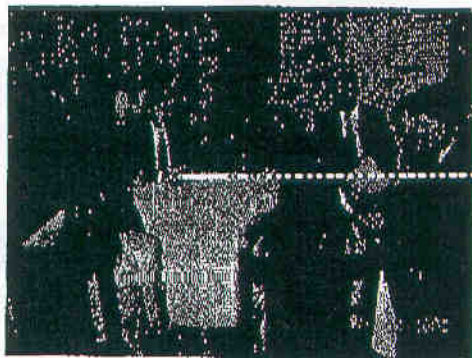
supplementary materials. Then, they stood before the audience to advocate and defend their respective positions. The judges assessed logic skills of thinking and ability to prove their positions, use of arguments and the manner in which they expressed their opinions.

The teachers had the opportunity to observe the first and second tasks of the second round. This allowed the teachers to learn and gain experience in conducting similar civic education tournaments in their regions in the future. After a lengthy deliberation the judges selected 4 students for the final round. After the first day of competition, volunteers from the Association for Young Leaders played introductory games with all the students.



When the third round started on the second day of the event, the students chose cards with presentation topics for which they had one hour to prepare. The audience, consisting of judges, students, teachers and guests of the Tournament listened to all four presentations. The judges mainly assessed two aspects: general knowledge of the Civics course (how well versed the students were in the comprehension and application of civics as it related to the problem presented), and general skills of making an oral presentation (debate skills and logic).

Akhmetova Asel from Taldy-Korgan city (Almaty oblast), lyceum # 20, won the Grand Prix. It should be noted that the representative from Taldy-Korgan competed in the Kazakh language. Sorochenko Irina from Pavlodar oblast won second place, school # 42; in third Alieva Mira from Uralsk, school # 28 and in fourth was Zagoruiko Vladimir from Shymkent, school # 8. The Hon. Larry Napper, the US Ambassador to Kazakhstan met them in a private meeting shown here.



In his remarks during the presentation of prizes Ambassador Napper said: *"It is a pleasure to follow the progress that the program has made over the past two years. As the number of schools which use this textbook has increased, we see that the textbook has become very popular among both teachers and students. I was glad to learn that more teachers from all parts of Kazakhstan are eager to introduce civic education classes using the IFES's textbook"*. He addressed the audience in fluent Russian. Representatives from the MOE and CEC members also made brief speeches and awarded the students with certificates for participation.

There were also winners in the following special achievements:

- |                                        |                    |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| • best result in written test          | • best erudition   |
| • best result in practical assignments | • best logic       |
| • best public speaker                  | • best role player |
| • most support from the audience       |                    |

In addition to the IFES awards, Exxon Mobil and Motorola companies awarded students with prizes of school bags, calculators, and promotional CD ROMs, and pencil cases.

Among the guests were Mrs. Napper, who took part at the teacher's seminar, Bituova Dildash, the Head of the Department for Secondary and General Education of the Ministry of Education and Science, Okhlopkova Tatiana and Foos Vladimir, Central Election Commission members, Susan Fritz and Igor Tupitsyn, representatives from the Democracy and Media Department of USAID/Almaty





The judges team, shown on the left, was represented by leaders of the local civic educational non-government and government organizations: Orlovsky Nikolay, Deputy Chairman of the Almaty City Election Commission; Aizhan Mukhtarova from Street-Law Kazakhstan; Zhukeshev Kanagat, CE specialist from the Kazakh Academy of Education named after I. Altynsarin and Dos Koshim with NGO DETAR (Developing of Democracy in Kazakh

Language).

The student tournament and teachers' seminar showed to IFES the level of students' knowledge achieved by taking the course "Introduction to Civic Education". At the seminar, teachers discussed the draft teacher's manual that was developed by IFES and its partners. This session was led by Elena Vinogradova, civic education specialist and Director of the NGO, "Accord." She is working with IFES on the teacher's manual and the textbook revision.



Discussion groups were held on reading and discussing the drafts of the Manual and sharing their experiences in small groups. After this the teachers were asked to brainstorm a list of desired themes, methods and concepts they want to have in a Manual. At the end of the session participants received an evaluation form and were asked to fill it out before leaving the seminar.



Students, teachers, officials and IFES staff at the Third Republican Tournament

Representatives of the National Debate Center of Kazakhstan, AHA Street law program, the Information and the Research Center for Civic Education presented their own program details for students and teachers. Separate presentations, made by IFES team members, were devoted to the introduction of IFES projects on Student Action Committees, Student Local Government Day and Democracy summer camp as well as with the IFES plan of creation of a school network. Each teacher completed an evaluation form where IFES raised questions in relation to the network.



Several students and their teachers traveled three days each way by train to participate in this tournament during their spring break from school. All ten young women and six young men were commendable competitors.

#### Successes:

- 1) IFES had an opportunity to assess the students' knowledge in the area of civic education. This year's results showed a great improvement in the students' familiarity with this topic. The students demonstrated much higher results compared to last year.
- 2) All the materials were available in Kazakh as well as in Russian. Thus Kazakh-speaking students had an equal opportunity with Russian-speaking students. The fact that a Kazakh-speaking student earned the Grand prix shows a real improvement in our work with Kazakh schools. In the 2002-2003 school year IFES plans to cover more Kazakh schools and rural schools in particular.
- 3) The simultaneous teachers' seminar enabled IFES to get teachers' input for the manual and the textbook. The teachers also learned about IFES's current and potential projects in Kazakhstan.
- 4) Although IFES did not secure the "Olympiad" status for the Tournament, the representative of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan- Mrs. Bctuova greeted the students and teachers and showed great interest in IFES projects and emphasized the importance of this type of activity for the young generation of Kazakhstan. Pictured here with the winner, Akhmetova Asel, Mrs. Betnova, on behalf of the Ministry expressed a strong desire to continue working with IFES in the future and provide necessary support.
- 5) Due to sponsors' support IFES was able to secure prizes for all the participants.

